

same fate. Again, not every component of yesterday's announcement is bad on its own.

Signaling an end to the out-of-control small refinery exemption program is long overdue, and it is consistent with the renewable fuel standard and a Tenth Circuit Court ruling. It is also good to see the Department of Agriculture moving forward with assistance funds for biofuel producers, but this was funding signed into law last December. It is almost as if it was withheld from our producers for months so that USDA could help the EPA sell our ag stakeholders a bill of goods.

I urge the administration to make good on its commitments to our farmers and to finally leverage American biofuels for the energy and environmental solutions they can provide.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### REMEMBERING ROBERT J. DOLE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, much is grown on Kansas' plains. Crops and pastures stretch as far as the eye can see. Grain elevators replace city skyscrapers, and the whisper of the wind substitutes the screech of sirens and traffic.

What truly makes the prairie special, however, is the people, the people of the plains. Kindness and resilience define Kansans. Churches that seem entirely too big for the tiny towns they tower over are filled on Sundays; and neighbors are checking on each other, sharing food, sharing laughs, maybe sharing a cup of coffee and even a few beers.

And perhaps this is why Senator Bob Dole reminded me every time I saw him: Roger, always remember where you are from.

In every speech I ever heard him give, he always said: Always remember where you are from.

I thought a lot about that this week. What was Senator Dole saying? Why was that so important?

And I think, reflecting, he always wanted to make sure that he remembered his Kansas values and that the people of Russell, KS, shaped his life, to pay honor to them and respect.

This week, Kansans lost a great friend and neighbor. Senator Bob Dole, a personification of the gentle toughness cultivated in the rural Midwest; an advocate for the disabled, the hungry, our veterans and our American way of life; a genuine once-in-a-generation, from the "greatest generation," American hero has been called home.

It was to these same plains that a young Robert Dole returned from war, critically wounded from injuries sustained in 1945 on a battlefield in Italy. The people of Russell had chipped in money—\$1,800 to be exact—into a cigar box on the counter of Dawson's Drug Store, where a young Bob Dole once worked as a soda jerk. These funds were used to help offset the costs of his

recovery, and it was a grueling recovery. During his 3-year hospital stay, he spent time in a body cast. He fought horrible infections that shot his temperature to over 109 degrees, which forced the doctors to pack him in ice. He literally underwent dozens of surgeries on his shoulder, his arm, and even to remove a kidney. Bob Dole was once a strapping, muscular three-sport varsity athlete at Russell High School, as well as a UK Jayhawk athlete. Dole was now paralyzed and his weight had dropped to 122 pounds.

All the while, during his recovery there in the hospitals, he listened to one of his new favorite songs, a source of inspiration, "You'll Never Walk Alone." I quote from that Rodgers and Hammerstein classic:

Walk on with hope in your heart and you'll never walk alone.

Walk on with hope in your heart and you'll never walk alone.

Americans know of Bob Dole's record of public service, whether it was passing the Reagan agenda through the Senate, saving Social Security from bankruptcy, fighting hunger in the United States and abroad, the Americans with Disabilities Act, his work for veterans that includes the construction of the World War II Memorial, and so, so much more.

Americans know of his time at the helm at the Republican National Committee, the U.S. Senate, and the party's Presidential ticket. They may even be aware of when, in 2014, he regained the strength to travel and visited all 105 Kansas counties to simply say "thank you"—thank you—for the life they had given him.

People may also know that most Saturdays of the past decade, Senator Dole quietly sat on the south side of the World War II Memorial to greet and thank veterans as the Honor Flights came to Washington, DC. It was only fitting that Kansans gathered there this morning to pay homage and respect and remember our hero. All of this, he did with humility, with charm and wit—that famous wit that made him so likable, so effective, and so Kansan.

As we in the Capitol honor Senator Dole, I remember the days that followed his famous salute of President George H.W. Bush's casket in the Capitol Rotunda—a moment that inspired and captivated the world—when he, with the help of his caretaker and fellow veteran Nate, stood up from his wheelchair and showed his reverence for his once rival and friend. He, of course, didn't understand what the big deal was. He just wanted to honor a fellow veteran and public servant. It was just a reflex for him to show that respect, and his humility in its wake was his classic style.

I remember the morning earlier this spring when Senator Dole called me to tell me that he had stage IV lung cancer. He wanted to make sure that my wife Laina and I knew before the press did. But all the while, what I remember

from that conversation was how upbeat he was, how positive he was, worried about me and not himself.

But he, again, beat the odds and spent more quality time with all of us. And every time I saw him, even up to just a couple of weeks ago, he was always cracking jokes, imparting wisdom, and spending time with all of his friends.

I am so grateful for the blessing of each moment spent with him before and after that call. I can't express what I would give for another one of those moments, as I know is true for his wife, our friend, Senator Elizabeth; and his most steadfast supporter and advocate, his daughter Robin.

The same goes for his devoted staff, who are like family to the Doles. Whenever you visited the Doles, that staff were all family members. I want to mention Pia, Marion, Mo, Ruth Ann, and so many more. We mourn your loss and you are in our prayers.

There are so many scores of friends from all ages and so many walks of life. So many people reached out to me this week to say: We are thinking of you, we are praying for you, give the Dole family our condolences.

Now, as his incredible work here is done—and I am going to miss my friend—the boots that my fellow Kansas Senator and I have to fill are very large, but, fortunately, he left me with some good advice to fill those boots.

It was in 2017, shortly after I had been elected and I was facing my first tough vote, and Senator Dole and myself were able to have a late morning brunch. I had my notes prepared. I was going to discuss this issue in great depth and I was prepared for every one of Senator Dole's questions.

But as I started the conversation, he said: Well, what is going on, on the Hill?

I said: Senator Dole, I have a tough vote tomorrow.

He took another sip of his lobster bisque and looked at me and said: Roger, go back to Kansas. The people of Kansas will tell you the answer.

I know I am going to never measure up to his standard. He set a tremendous bar for us to reach. While Senator Dole is done, the lessons we can all learn from his life will be lived out and passed on. Certainly, the spirit of Bob Dole, the spirit of patriotism, hope, loyalty, respect, service, and genuine kindness and concern for others will never fade.

One of the best days of my time in Congress was watching Senator Dole receive the Congressional Gold Medal in 2018, in our Nation's Capitol Rotunda. It was a special honor. As a freshman Congressman, I had to kind of fight my way to the front row or near the front row, and I was surrounded by other Members of Congress as well. As the President recited Bob Dole's story, one by one they would look at me and nod. You know that nod you get, the nod of respect. You don't have to say anything. I was so proud to

be a Kansan. My chest puffed up, full of pride. It just made me so very proud to be there with the Kansans to see this is what a Congressman, a Senator, is supposed to look like.

For months, as we led up to that event, his family and friends watched as he struggled to regain strength after several more health setbacks. I remember the family didn't think he would be able to attend, but much like the wounded Bob Dole in the forties, he was able to accept that award personally. He miraculously recovered, like he had so many times before.

At that marvelous ceremony where he got to hear the gratitude of a nation, the song "You'll Never Walk Alone" was played. I was close enough that I could see him mouth the words to the President: "This is my favorite song." And I was close enough that I could hear his voice—a voice we were all familiar with—sing along, softly sing these lyrics:

When you walk through a storm  
Hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark  
At the end of the storm there's a golden sky  
and the sweet silver song of a lark  
Walk on through the wind  
Walk on through the rain  
Though your dreams be tossed and blown  
Walk on  
Walk on with hope in your heart and you'll  
never walk alone  
You'll never walk alone.

For so many of us—Kansans, veterans, the poor and hungry around the world, farmers, the disability community, and more—we never walk alone. We thank you, Senator Dole, for walking beside us, always giving us hope. We love you, we miss you, and we thank you.

God bless America.  
I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL

UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO "COVID-19 VACCINATION AND TESTING; EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD"

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S.J. Res. 29.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 29) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing; Emergency Temporary Standard".

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the provisions of 5, United States Code 802, there will now be up to 10 hours of debate, equally divided.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator CASSIDY be allowed to complete his remarks before the next scheduled vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection.

#### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, we have a crisis here in the United States, which we cannot keep ignoring. After the pandemic hit, we took our eyes off the issue of opioid and other drug overdoses.

We have made tremendous progress over the previous 4 years. The Trump Administration made it a priority. Congress has made it a priority. We have funded multiple programs, and we have seen that the incidence rate of drug overdose was decreasing and for opioids in particular.

But with the lockdown and the personal stress this led to, we have seen an uptick once more in these opioid deaths. From April 2020 to April 2021, we saw over 100,000 overdoses linked to opioids and other overdoses beyond that, and fentanyl causing 64 percent of them.

Now, we talk about statistics, but we sometimes, in those statistics, lose the human dimension. I remember a 911 call I once heard, and in it there was a frantic woman calling because her husband was overdosed: Please come help. And that is tragic, but you almost become used to it. What brought tears to your eyes was that in the background you heard the baby crying.

Now, it is easy to imagine, one, what that child's life is now—the child of an addict—but it is also easy to imagine what the child's future is with a single parent having to deal with the death of a father and all that means.

It is not just the opioid death. It is the opioid family that has to bear the burden of the loss: first, to addiction and then, secondly, to death.

Now, there is a unique role here for the country of China. We don't know that it is the Chinese Government, but we certainly know it is the country of China.

Fentanyl is a synthetic poison that is taking the lives of so many of these who die from opioid addiction—certainly true in my State, Louisiana. The country of China's role in this opioid crisis is by providing the chemicals to the Mexican and South American cartels, which take those raw chemicals and make them into the

fentanyl that then comes into our country. And this is what is causing the addiction.

Now, by the way, opioid addiction is incredibly powerful. In another story from when I was a practicing physician, in the emergency room, at 3 in the morning, where the grandmother was there with the addict daughter, and the child—grandchild of the grandmother, child of the addict—was crying because the grandmother was taking the child away from his mother. The mother didn't care. And it struck me that if something is so powerful to disrupt the relationship between a mother and her child, the power of that cannot be ignored.

So when we look at these drugs that people are addicted to, we have to understand the hold they have upon their physiology, their emotional life, their psychology—in a sum, their whole life.

So what can we do? We can't just give up. We have to make a pushback for the sake of those who are in addiction and the family members that they have. So we need to modernize our customs process. I have a Customs Modernization Act, which will crack down on the illicit trade, if you will, the way that the cartels are financing and moving drugs across the border. If we can address that, we can address the supply, and we can decrease the number of people who have access to these drugs.

Today, I introduce the HALT Fentanyl Act to make permanent the temporary schedule I of fentanyl analogs. What this means is that in an effort to evade our laws, the cartels will make some little analog—just a little bit different from regular fentanyl, which is regulated—but, nonetheless, has the addictive potential and the ability to kill of regular fentanyl. And this will allow us to combat the criminals and to hold the companies in China responsible.

The next thing we have to do is start by closing down our southern border. It is not just the migrants who are coming across but tens of thousands of pounds of drugs. We are now seizing more fentanyl and meth than we ever have before. Even the DEA Administrator, Anne Milgram, agrees that drugs flowing across the border are fueling the opioid crisis.

She said this on national TV: "The real problem are the criminal drug networks in Mexico." She says fentanyl and meth are being "mass produced in Mexico," sourcing chemicals mostly coming from China, and they are "driving the overdose deaths".

We have a responsibility to our fellow Americans. Perhaps I feel it more acutely as a physician who has been with those patients and their families who are fighting addiction, but we should all feel the pain of that child crying as her mother was calling for 911 to come assist the father who had stopped breathing from an overdose. So let us redouble our efforts and hope others will join on both the Customs Modernization Act and the HALT